

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended without prejudice. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 12-19 are allowed, and that all previous rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 112 have been overcome.

Objections to the Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings due to their use of color photographs. Applicant is currently in the progress of converting the drawings to black and white, and will submit the new drawings upon indication that the application is otherwise allowable.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. In an effort to expedite the application to allowance, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that "at least part of the method is performed on one or more computer systems." Amended claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, now clearly relate to some form of technology. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Comments on Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowability

While Applicant believes that the claims are allowable and patentably distinguish over the prior art, Applicant does not acquiesce that patentability necessarily resides in the specific features recited in the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowability, nor that each and every feature is required for patentability. Rather, Applicant submits that patentability is

based on the claimed invention as a whole, and not solely on one or more particular features recited in the allowed claims.

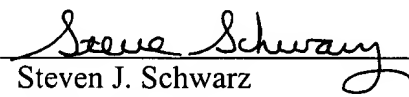
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of pending claims 1-19. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Director is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully Submitted,
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

Date: 4/20/2004
Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP
Customer No. 09629
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel. No.: 202-739-3000

By: 
Steven J. Schwarz
Registration No. 47,070
Tel. No.: (202) 739-5713
Fax No.: (202) 739-3001